Bosnes That Will Probably Ee Duplicated in Klondike Region.

The Two Regions in Which Are Found the Richest Placer Stines in the World Lie in Almost the Same Northern Lutitude.

richest gold placers yet discovered tical into should lie in almost identically the to northern waters and lie within the | mountain streams

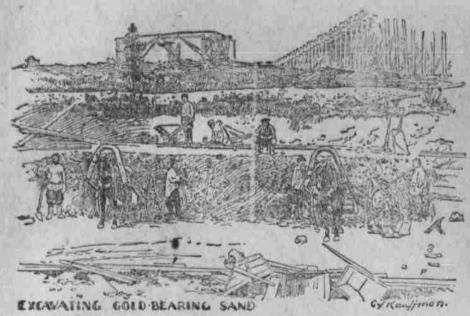
zone of almost perennial frost, these two regions is purely coincident, ling away from the river's brink when

GOLD MINES IN SIBERIA. the newly discovered Didorado in the

ing regions in general, I ... propuse in ravines the rocks of which are very fo give the read read as the observa- much weather-beaten. Gold is rarely tions and ex ever a noted while on found at precipitous spots and is most a recent for a through the mining named at the water ages ago district or a rither term Siberia. To but a college of this kind the gold but to set unt for the Alas' and With he swiedge of this kind the gold. that the two regions which contain the fields the tray but he field of power hunter proceeds till he enables the val-

same porthern intitude, within three skills along the Leng and its tribus error the likelihood of gold deposits. degrees of the Arctic circle. I refer to taries and on bornebuck through the the recent Klondike discoveries of taigus or dease Siberian forests. Four Alaska and the energiously rich stardy Dassian Caberman connectour fire at the bottom to them the earth so placers of the Olekminek district in two boats at bow and stern, and with it can be handled. The gold-bearing northeastern Siberla. Both regions their long birch poles pushed us up sand is taken late warm winter quaroccupy the basins of rivers flowing in- slowly against the swift current of the ters and there washed and assayed.

While the identity of latitude of the glimpse of a bear or deer scamper- onen and overseer live in their wretened

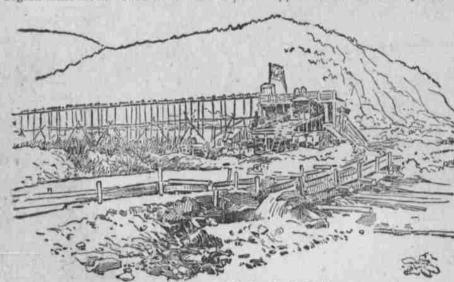


yet it is to the extreme northern situa- | taken unawares by our noiseless apdue the excessive richness of their in the dense pine forest; for we were placer deposits.

It is a well established fact that the | whose end was undetermined.

tion which they both possess that is prouch, and then they would disappear n the midst of a pine-wood desert

richest placer deposits in the world are | The German Black Forest and the to be found in those localities where great Lithuanian are as nothing comthe disintegrating effects of the cle- pared with these sub-Arctic farest rements have been most retarded. No- lions. Up to the present time they have where is this so well exemplified as in | been abandoned almost wholly to the Alaska and northern Siberia. In the forces of nature and they present anylatter, at least, the soil is almost per- thing but a pleasing spectacle to civipetually frozen, and this fact, together lized man. There are many places with the dense forcers which subse- where, for hundreds of miles in every quently covered the deposits, has fa- direction, stand growths of pine, with vored the preservation of the gold interlacing summits that obscure the grains and nugreto from the wearing sky. The absolutely naked trunks, and denuding action of the water. In which rise perfectly straight to an fact, many of the gold deposits in this coormous height, are so uniform inregion have been found to be due to their appearance that even experienced



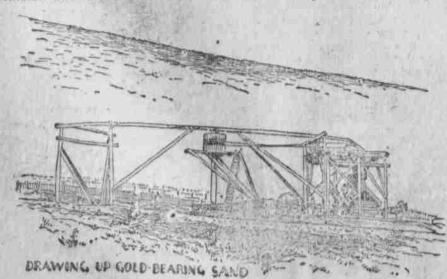
WASHING-MACHINE FOR GOLD SAND

the influence of glaciers only, and, trappers have to record every step they thanks to the cold climate which followed the glacial period, many have ments, coins, bones, etc.

deposits of these extreme northern re- When my turn came, I threw fresh fuel gions shows itself in every respect, be- on the fire, wrapped my fur ecai around ginning with their width, size of strat- me, as the night was cold, and was soon ification and the amount of gold they lost in reverie.

In the midst of these dismal surbeen preserved to the present day in roundings we were forced to spend the their original form. They even show night, as we did not dare trust ourselves traces of a geological period partially to the rapids after dark. The river procontemporary with man, for memen- vided us with pure, cool water, and the toes of his presence have been left in dense trees kept off the sharp north them in the form of arrow heads, orna- wind. Having carefully examined our aveapons and settled the watches in In general the richness of the gold turns, we prepared to pass the night.

contain. The Olekminsk district of! It was not quite dark, but though the



northeastern Siberla produces, alone, moon shone brightly in the sky, its fully one-built of all the gold now mined light could with difficulty pierce the habited place (1,200 miles from the mur could be heard plainly. was nearly \$3,000,000.

arive of what may be expected from cost about \$3,500.

in the Russian empire; although its think mans of foliage and dispel the gold industry is as yet in its infancy. applicationess beneath. The stillness Notwithstanding the severity of the was unbroken envelop the distantery of elimate, the costliness of labor and some wild heast. The echoes were so me at the auction of Salmond's effects food, and the distance from any in- far reaching that the most distant mur-

Siberian capital, Irkutsk) still its production of gold is developing rapidly: may go to seek for gold, as the hunter it already stands first among the gold- may penetrate the same disma! region producing regions of Siberia. Some in search of game, provided that he has iden of the enormity of its industry a certificate from mining officers, which may be gleaned from the fact that the he may get by merely giving proofs of wages of the men employed in its good citizenship. He cannot, however, mines amounted in the last three years go alone. There must be a prospecting to \$4,000,000, while the cost of the chief party made up which may consist, say, articles of consumption at these mines of a professional gold hunter, an overseer, eight workmen, ten horses, 18 I have referred thus briefly to the anddle bags, provisions and tools, the placers of northeastern Siberia as Indic- whole of which may be estimated to

Klondike of Alaska: for not only in the deat place that the deposits are are the geological and elimatic condi- to be mer with in the beds of running tions very much the come in both re- streams or in the crevices of the earth. gions, but also the character of their that have evidently served as channelmines, as well as the method of work- for running water. Moreover, he knowthat the rivers that wash up gold are As characterictly of sub-firetic min- always those which have their sources

by of a stream where the presence of The fourney was made in Miserian queites, iron, stratu chy or quariz indi-

The exploration of these deposits is clears made in winter, in pits, with a

The work of testing a locality may Every now and then we would eateh | take a long time; meanwhile the workhut, which often is not well roofed and is heated only by a partiable stove. The avind whistles through the cracks of the moss-calked walls, and while intolerable heat reigns in the vicinity of the stove, there are icicles on the walls.

As a rule the richness of these gold bearing strata varies in each deposit, the upper portion generally containing an accumulation of coarse particles of gold mixed with quartz, magnetic iron and pyrites; in the middle portion the gold is finer in its particles and the sand less profitable; and lastly, in the tall of the deposit there remains a floating dust which only yields a trace of gold. The gold of the Olekminsk deposits has the peculiarity of being disributed in two and even three layers. the bottom one being by far the richest. The thickness of the gold-bearing strata is from two to fifteen feet and



ired and twenty feet.

The extraction of the auriferous sand is conducted in the simplest manner possible by means of picks, crowbars and shove!. However, in the Olekminsk district the use of explosives in the amining works is yearly increasing: the annual consumption of dynamite at the gold workings of this region now amounts to 20 tons. The auriferous sand is transported in wheeled carts drawn by horses to the separating machine. This is nothing more than a huge iron truncated cone resembling a coffee roaster, perforated on alf sides. This is made to rotate by water power and the large stones and pebbles find their way to the waste heap where a man is constantly watching for nuggets.

The workings of the Olekminsk district are situated at a distance of 230 miles from their depon of supplies and in winter they travel back and forth on the frozen surface of the streams and in summer on horseback overland.

The gold is transported in a rather novel manner. It is first poured into bags of coarse linen, which are afterwards stamped with the brand of the mine and sewn up in leather sacks Each bag contains about 50 pounds of gold and two of them constitute a load for one horse.

To the two bags is fastened a stick of dry wood at the end of a strong cord, so that in the event of the horse's burden being washed away while crossing a swollen river, the floating wood will indicate the whereabouts of the sunken

In the middle of June or at the end of the summer season the departure of a load of gold from the mine is accompanied by pistol firing and the booming of cannon, and cheers and blessings bid the caravan bon voyage.
THOMAS G. ALLEN, JR.

An Uniucky Belmet, A curious circumstance was connected with Younghusband's death. After the battle of Cawnpore he had purchased at auction a very somet hel met, which had been the property of Lieut, Salmond, of the Gwaller cavalry, who had been killed at Cawapore. This helmet a good deal excited my envy and admiration, and as I had not possessed a decent headdress since the mutiny be gan, I had asked a friend to buy it for But poor Younghusband outlid me. At his sale I was again outbid, and the helmet fell to the nod of Lieut, Havelnok, a nephew of the general. He, too, was killed wearing it; and rumor subse quently said a fourth officer had bought it and had been killed. It was a strangecoincidence, and na these deaths oc urred quickly one after the other, seased to wish I had been its possessor -"Odd Memories," by Gen. Sir Hug.

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